

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A handheld device comprising:
  - a motion detection module operable to detect motion of the device within three dimensions;
  - 5 a memory maintaining a spatial signature comprising a particular movement of the device with respect to a reference position; and
  - a signature detection module operable to determine an input signature by identifying an initial position of the device and tracking movement of the device in reference to the initial position using the motion detection module, to determine whether the input signature substantially matches the spatial signature, and to generate an authorization in response to determining that the input signature substantially matches the spatial signature.
- 10 2. The handheld device of Claim 1, wherein:
  - 15 the motion detection module is further operable to detect accelerations of the device;
  - the spatial signature further comprises a predetermined sequence of accelerations related in time; and
  - the signature detection module is further operable to determine whether the input signature substantially matches the spatial signature by tracking a sequence of accelerations of the device and determining whether the tracked sequence of accelerations substantially matches the predetermined sequence of accelerations.
- 20 3. The handheld device of Claim 1, wherein the signature detection module is further operable to determine whether the input signature substantially matches the spatial signature regardless of a scale of the input signature.
- 25 4. The handheld device of Claim 1, further comprising a wireless interface operable to transmit the authorization to a remote receiver for delivery to a remote device.
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5. The handheld device of Claim 1, wherein authorization unlocks access to features of the handheld device.

6. The handheld device of Claim 5, wherein the unlocked features of the  
5 device include use of an encryption key.

7. The handheld device of Claim 1, wherein the spatial signature further comprises at least one predefined non-motion element.

10 8. The handheld device of Claim 7, wherein the non-motion element comprises a button press.

9. The handheld device of Claim 7, wherein:  
the predefined non-motion element is associated with a particular reference  
15 motion at a particular relative time during the spatial signature; and  
the signature detection module is further operable to determine whether the  
input signature substantially matches the spatial signature by receiving a non-motion  
input while tracking the movement of the device, correlating the received non-motion  
input against a specific point in the tracked movement of the device, and determining  
20 whether the tracked movement of the device at the specific point matches to the  
particular reference motion and whether the received non-motion input matches to the  
predefined non-motion element.

10. A method for controlling a handheld device comprising:  
maintaining a spatial signature comprising a particular movement of the  
device with respect to a reference position;  
identifying an initial position of the device;  
5 determining an input signature by tracking movement of the device within  
three dimensions in reference to the initial position;  
determining whether the input signature substantially matches the spatial  
signature; and  
generating an authorization in response to determining that the input signature  
10 substantially matches the spatial signature.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein:  
the spatial signature further comprises a predetermined sequence of  
accelerations related in time; and  
15 determining whether the input signature substantially matches the spatial  
signature comprises tracking a sequence of accelerations of the device and  
determining whether the tracked sequence of accelerations substantially matches the  
predetermined sequence of accelerations.

20 12. The method of Claim 10, further comprising transmitting the  
authorization to a remote receiver for delivery to a remote device.

25 13. The method of Claim 10, wherein authorization unlocks access to  
features of the handheld device.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein the unlocked features of the device  
include use of an encryption key.

30 15. The method of Claim 10, wherein the spatial signature further  
comprises at least one predefined non-motion element.

16. The method of Claim 15, wherein:

the predefined non-motion element is associated with a particular reference motion at a particular relative time during the spatial signature; and

5 determining whether the input signature substantially matches the spatial signature comprises receiving a non-motion input while tracking the movement of the device, correlating the received non-motion input against a specific point in the tracked movement of the device, and determining whether the tracked movement of the device at the specific point matches to the particular reference motion and whether the received non-motion input matches to the predefined non-motion element.

17. Logic for controlling a handheld device, the logic embodied in a computer readable medium and operable when executed to perform the steps of:

maintaining a spatial signature comprising a particular movement of the device with respect to a reference position;

5 identifying an initial position of the device;

determining an input signature by tracking movement of the device within three dimensions in reference to the initial position;

determining whether the input signature substantially matches the spatial signature; and

10 generating an authorization in response to determining that the input signature substantially matches the spatial signature.

18. The logic of Claim 17, wherein:

15 the spatial signature further comprises a predetermined sequence of accelerations related in time; and

determining whether the input signature substantially matches the spatial signature comprises tracking a sequence of accelerations of the device and determining whether the tracked sequence of accelerations substantially matches the predetermined sequence of accelerations.

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19. The logic of Claim 17, further operable when executed to perform the step of transmitting the authorization to a remote receiver for delivery to a remote device.

25 20. The logic of Claim 17, wherein authorization unlocks access to features of the handheld device.

21. The logic of Claim 17, wherein:

the spatial signature further comprises at least one predefined non-motion element;

5 the predefined non-motion element is associated with a particular reference motion at a particular relative time during the spatial signature; and

determining whether the input signature substantially matches the spatial signature comprises receiving a non-motion input while tracking the movement of the device, correlating the received non-motion input against a specific point in the tracked movement of the device, and determining whether the tracked movement of  
10 the device at the specific point matches to the particular reference motion and whether the received non-motion input matches to the predefined non-motion element.

22. A handheld device comprising:
- means for maintaining a spatial signature comprising a particular movement of the device with respect to a reference position;
  - means for identifying an initial position of the device;
  - 5 means for determining an input signature by tracking movement of the device within three dimensions in reference to the initial position;
  - means for determining whether the input signature substantially matches the spatial signature; and
  - means for generating an authorization in response to determining that the input
  - 10 signature substantially matches the spatial signature.